



Forest Service News Release

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Fuel Treatment Projects Resume Across the Forest

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — December 8, 2021. Cleveland fire managers are starting annual fuel treatment projects across the Forest. These active forest management activities, including prescribed burning, help reduce the risk of wildfire to people and communities across the Southland, foster a healthier ecosystem, and minimize the effects of large wildfires on the landscape.

The implementation of fuel and vegetation management projects takes place throughout the year, some of which are in preparation for prescribed fires. These projects are a continuing effort to reduce the threat of wildfire and improve forest health. As weather and other environmental factors permit, the prescribed fire program will continue through the winter and spring months.

When burns occur, information signs will be posted along the roadways to alert the public to the burning activity and subsequent visible smoke in the area. Information will also be posted on Forest's social media accounts. Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ClevelandNF> or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/clevelandnf>

When implementing these projects, fire managers follow a burn plan that outlines the "prescription" or environmental conditions such as temperature, wind, fuel, moisture, ventilation, and relative humidity that will allow for safe, controlled burns to take place. When the criteria are met, crews implement, monitor, and patrol each burn to ensure it meets the goals and objectives outlined by the managers. Prescribed fires include both understory and pile burning to reduce the amount of vegetation, such as needles, small plants, brush, and small trees, which can carry fire from the forest floor into the treetops.

The ignition of all prescribed burns is dependent on the availability of personnel, equipment and appropriate conditions. Prescribed burn planning and execution are closely coordinated with the National Weather Service and Air Quality Management Districts to manage smoke production and minimize impacts as much as possible.

Know Before You Go by visiting the Cleveland National Forest website, social media accounts or by calling our local offices. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland/>

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